

Application No.: 09/682,071

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the Examiners allowance of claims 1-48. Upon entry of this response claims 1-48 are pending, and claims 49-53 are cancelled.

Applicants respectfully disagree with the Examiner that claims 49-53 are anticipated by the prior art, and reserve the right to pursue the subject matter in a continuation application.

Applicants also respectfully direct the Examiners attention to the 1st supplemental Information Disclosure Statement mailed 1/3/2005 that enters into the record a communication mailed 10/11/2004 that is associated with a corresponding foreign application, titled "PCT Invitation to Pay Additional Fees", and comprises a Partial International Search with newly identified references.

CONCLUSION

For these reasons, Applicants believe all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions pertaining to this application or feels that a telephone conference would in any way expedite the prosecution of the application, please do not hesitate to call the undersigned at (781) 280-1522.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 01-0431.

Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

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Respectfully submitted,

By William R. McCarthy III

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